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The Mariners' to Host MilKids Fest in Celebration of Military Kids on April 6

NEWPORT NEWS, VA –The Mariners' Museum and Park continues their commitment to serving the military community with their third annual Mariners' MilKids Fest on **Sunday, April 6, 2025, from noon to 4 p.m.** (Eastern time). This event is in celebration of the *Month of the Military Child*, helping to increase recognition and awareness of the many sacrifices military families make. The Mariners' MilKids Fest is in partnership with Instant Teams, a talent marketplace committed to the financial well-being of military families.

"Our team is excited to celebrate the military community every year, in particular, the children who sacrifice so much," Mariners' Chief of Staff Luisa Vázquez-López commented. "It's our honor to partner with Instant Teams to provide a day filled with engaging activities and practical community resources. Families can also spend time together exploring The Mariners' through fun scavenger hunts, which kids always love. This event truly encompasses our mission to connect people to the world's waters and one another."

The afternoon will be devoted to honoring children of U.S. military service members and providing useful tools and resources from trusted community partners such as Dogs on Deployment, MILLIE, Spouse-ly, and Kidcreate Studio. Families will be welcomed with fun activities inside Museum galleries and outside in Mariners' Park, including:

- Festive carnival-themed games
- A Mariners' scavenger hunt adventure
- Hands-on learning experiences with the Museum's Education Team
- 3D-printed replicas of select USS *Monitor* artifacts supplied by NOAA
- A performance by Greenbeats, Live!, presented by Virginia Stage Company

- Exploration of Mariners' Park

Military families and Mariners' Museum Members will receive free admission to The Mariners' MilKids Fest, and general admission is \$1. The Mariners' will also offer military families free admission to the Museum that day. Alongside participating food vendors, snacks and water will also be available for purchase in the Museum's Gift Shop. The public is encouraged to wear purple—the signature color symbolizing all branches of the military—to this event in support of U.S. military children.

For more information about this event, visit: marinersmuseum.org/event/the-mariners-milkids-fest-3/.

Media interested in interviews or more information about this event should contact Senior Director of Advancement Sabrina Jones at sjones@MarinersMuseum.org.

The Mariners' Museum and Park connects people to the world's waters because through the water – through our shared maritime heritage – we are connected to one another. The organization is an educational, private 501(c)(3) nonprofit institution accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and preserves and interprets maritime history through an international collection of ship models, figureheads, paintings, and other maritime artifacts. The Mariners' Museum® is home to the USS *Monitor* Center, and is surrounded by the 550-acre Mariners' Park, the largest privately owned and maintained park that is free and open to the public in North America. The Mariners' Museum Library is the largest maritime library in the Western hemisphere. Because of the Museum's world-class collection and its reputation for high-level exhibits and programs, in 1998, the U.S. Congress designated The Mariners' Museum as one of only two maritime museums that comprise America's National Maritime Museum. The Museum galleries are open to the general public with \$1 admission, and the Mariners' team will continue to offer FREE virtual programs for those who prefer to engage online with us or through our social media platforms and blog posts. The Mariners' Park and Noland Trail is open for daily use. For additional information, visit MarinersMuseum.org, call (757) 596-2222 or write to The Mariners' Museum, 100 Museum Drive, Newport News, VA 23606.

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